



THE
EARLE
OF

STRAFFORDS

Speech on the Scaffold

before hee was beheaded

on Tower-hill,

May 12. 1641.

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STRAFFORDS
Speech on the Scaffold.



Y LORD Primate of
Ireland, (and my Lords,
and the rest of these
Gentlemen) it is a very
great comfort to me, to
have your Lordship by
mee this day in regard
I have been known to
you a long time; I should bee very glad to ob-
taine so much silence, as to bee heard a few
words, but I doubt I shall not. My Lord I
come hither by the good will and pleasure of

A 2

Almighty

Almighty God, to pay that last debt I owe to sinne, which is death, and by the blessing of that GOD to rise againe through the merits of Christ Iesus to eternall glory.

And hee being disturbed by the people, he said, *what is the matter*, and sate down in a chair; some replied, the souldiers kept most stirre, *If they*, said he, *would be quiet, all the rest would bee quiet.*

I wish I had been private, that I might have been heard: my Lord, if I might bee so much beholding to you that I might use a few words, I should take it for a very great courtesie: my Lord I come hither to submit to that judgement which hath past against me, I do it with a very quiet and contented minde, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgivenesse that is not spoken from the teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart; I speak it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in mee arising to any creature. I thank God I may say truely, and my Conscience beares mee witnesse, that in all my services since I have had the honour to serve his Majestie in any employment I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall prosperitie of King and People; if it have

have been my hap to bee misconstered, it is the common portion of us all while wee are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafter, here wee are subject to errour, and apt to bee mis-judged one of another: there is one thing I desire to cleere my self off, and I am very confident, I speake it with so much clearnesse, that I hope I shall have your Christian Charitie in the belief of it. I did alwayes ever think the Parliaments of *England* were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under GOD the meanes of making King and People happie, so farre have I been from being against Parliaments: For my death I here acquit all the World, and pray GOD heartily to forgive them; and in particular, my LORD Primate I am very glad that his Majestie is pleased to conceive mee, not meriting so severe, and heavie a punishment as the utmost execution of this sentence; I am very glad and infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his, and beseech GOD to turne it to him, that hee may finde mercie when hee hath most need of it; I wish this Kingdome all the prosperitie and happinesse in the world: I did it living, and now dying it is my wish; I doe
now

now professe it from my heart, and doe most humble recommend it unto every man here, and wish every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and consider seriously whether the beginning of the happinesse of a people should be written in letters of bloud, I feare you are in a wrong way, and I desire Almighty God that no one drop of my bloud may rise up in judgement against you.

(My Lord) I professe my self a true and obedient Sonne to the Church of *England*, to that Church wherein I was borne and wherein I was bred; prosperity and happinesse be ever to it: and whereas it hath beene said that I have enclined to Popery, if it bee an objection worth answering, let me say truely, that from the time since I was one and twentie, years of age. till this houre, now going upon nine and fourty, I never had thought in my heart to doubt of the truth of my Religion in England: and never any had the boldnesse to suggest to me the contrary, to the best of my remembrance; and so being reconciled to the mercies of Christ Jesus my Saviour, into whose bosome I hope shortly to bee gathered to enjoy those eternall happinessees that shall never have end; I desire heartily the forgivenessse

nesse of every man, both for any rash or unadvised word or deed, and desire your prayers: And so my Lords, farewell, farewell all the things of this world; Lord strengthen my faith, give me confidence and assurance in the merites of Christ Jesus. I desire you that you would bee silent, and joyne in prayers with me; and trust in God that we shall all meet and live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the accomplishment of all happinesse, where every teare shall bee wiped from our eyes, and every sad thought from our hearts: And so God bleesse this Kingdome, and Jesus have mercie upon my Soule.

FINIS
